GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1368
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2014
MEDICAL RESEARCH
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the major research projects undertaken by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the details of the achievements made including drug and medical equipment/ devices developed by ICMR as a result thereof;

(c) whether ICMR has entered into partnership/collaboration with certain research organisations/institutions for developing effective drugs/devices against cancer, diabetes and other diseases, and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to augment the capacity, strengthen and streamline the functioning of ICMR; and

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to set up health research institutes for tribes in certain States/UTs including Kerala, and, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a): ICMR has informed that a total number of 2893 new projects including 976 fellowships were sanctioned by them during 2010-14. The year-wise and field-wise break up is given in Annexure − I

(b): ICMR has an important programme on Translational Research under which one diagnostic kit (for beta thalassemia), 3 detection test strips (for estimation of Vit A and Ferritin and diabetes strip), 2 devices (magnavisualizer for cervical cancer and Glucometer for diabetes) and one vaccine (for Japanese Encephalitis (JE) has already been released. The achievement of ICMR is given in Annexure −II

(c): ICMR have informed that they have developed inter − agency collaboration with National and International agencies for enhancing research capabilities on common subject areas for betterment of Society. The following inter agency collaboration has been strengthened and details is at Annexure − III

(d): ICMR continue to be fulcrum of new Department of Health Research. Government is supporting the efforts of ICMR to recognize its functions through Vecto Borne Disease Science Forum, Tribal Health Research Forum, etc. Proposal for new scientific personal, creation of new centres in deficit areas have been taken up.

ICMR has shifted from manual receipt, processing and management of extramural project to web-based interactive system. The system has been developed by ICMR in technical collaboration with C-DAC, NOIDA. This system has started functioning w.e.f January 2012. Now all function related to the processing of extramural ad hoc proposals i.e. submission, receipt, reviews by experts, sanction, release of funds, report submission, and final closure of the project are made through web-based system. This system has eliminated the paper-based manual system and has also brought transparency and speed in processing. This has also provided access to remote and inaccessible areas.

E-governance is being implemented in official process in phased manner for easy and smooth functioning as well as tracking the files.

(e): ICMR is already having a Regional Medical Research Centre for Tribals at Jabalpur and also proposing to initiate a new RMRC in tribal areas in Chhattisgarh. ICMR has also set up a Tribal Health Research Forum to strengthen efforts to deal with the health problems of the tribal, inaccessible and marginalized communities. This forum was constituted in 2010 with a view to synergize tribal health research among various ICMR Institutes and to focus on areas that could influence health outcome in the country. It is also planned to start an Institute for Research in Ageing at Wayanad, Kerala during XII five year plan.